

MEMORANDUM

**To:** Interested Parties

**From:** Office of Congressman Pete Stark  
(Contact: Brian Cook, 202-225-3202)

**Date:** Monday, January 3, 2011

"The true test is whether our ideas, policies and values are able to stand the test of a fair debate and a fair vote." – John Boehner, September 30, 2010

Republican aides have confirmed to news outlets that they plan on bypassing committees to jam through a vote to repeal health reform in the first days of the new Congress. This is an obvious attempt to throw red meat to the extreme tea partiers in the Republican base.

As a reminder, in the 111th Congress, House Democrats put the health reform bill through regular order with record-setting transparency, resulting in:

- 79 bipartisan hearings
- 100 hours of hearings
- 181 witnesses
- 239 amendments, including 121 amendments that were accepted
- The draft House bill was posted online for 30 days before committee markup
- President Obama signed health reform legislation into law 277 days after the draft House bill was posted online

Republican leaders claimed that they would put all bills through regular order. However, before the new Congress has even begun, Republicans are already poised to abandon their promises to shove through a massive bill that would increase the deficit, take away millions of Americans' health coverage, and make health care unaffordable for millions more.

Please see below for Republicans' promises that they would abide by regular order:

"We need to stop writing bills in the speaker's office and let members of Congress be legislators again. Too often in the House right now we don't have legislators; we just have voters... We have nothing to fear from letting the House work its will—nothing to fear from the battle of ideas. **That starts with the committees.** The result will be more scrutiny and better legislation." – John Boehner, National Journal, 11/13/10

"And, of course, they can have amendments. I've passed some amendments when the Democrats ran the place. They have to have amendments in committee to pass, and we'll see what kind of amendments they bring up and whether they can pass them or not. **We're going to restore regular order... We're going to have an open and transparent process and allow any member of Congress to amend bills in committees and things like that.**

" – Paul Ryan, Kenosha News, 10/29/10

"And John Boehner and the new House Republican majority mean it when we say in our Pledge to America that we're going to repeal Obamacare. And we're going to do it as soon as we get the gavels. **But we're going to do it openly, transparently, and let the public be a part of that process.**" – Joe Barton, Fox News, 11/10/10

"I regularly wanted more open debate, an opportunity for bipartisanship to proceed through regular order on the House floor... It's very important to recognize that we want to use the Rules Committee to ensure that more members can have the opportunity to participate." – David Dreier, 11/18/10

For a complete timeline of the House Democrats' record transparency through the health reform debate, please visit: <http://go.usa.gov/rDM>

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